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## Supervisors select Draeger as new county assessor

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### SAN BERNARDINO

• Dennis Draeger, who has been serving as interim county assessor since Bill Postmus resigned five months ago, took the helm as the new San Bernardino County assessor on Tuesday morning.

County supervisors unanimously voted to appoint Draeger, who then took the oath of office at the regular Board of Supervisors meeting in San Bernardino.

"I want to thank the board for your support," Draeger said at the meeting. "I will not let you down, I will not let the taxpayers of the county down, nor will I let down the employees of the San Bernardino County Assessor's office."

Draeger took over Assessor's office operations when Postmus resigned Feb. 13 amid an arrest for drug possession and an ongoing political corruption probe by the district attorney.

"I believe that you have a very extraordinary responsibility to step up," 5th District Supervisor Joe Gonzales said moments before the vote. "That you might then help us to restore the ethics, the hard work, the upstanding character that we want to be known for in San Bernardino County."

Draeger, who has 23 years of experience working in the county Assessor's office, also spent nearly 10 years working for the county Treasurer-Tax Collector before becoming assistant assessor in November.

Board President Gary Ovitt had previously recommended that the board either appoint Draeger to the formal seat, or develop an open recruitment process to select someone else.

Draeger, 59, of Yucaipa, will make \$153,931 annually serving the remainder of Postmus' term, which expires June 2010.



Dennis Draeger